AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1-11. (Canceled).

12. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for delivery and deployment of an expandable stent within a vessel, the apparatus comprising:

a catheter having a proximal end and a distal end,

an expandable means mounted at the distal end of the catheter and being expandable by means of a fluid pressure device, the expandable stent being expandable from a delivery diameter to a deployment diameter and being mounted on the catheter over the expandable means,

a sheath being slidably mounted on the stent and being arranged for proximal retraction to expose the stent by means of a retraction device, wherein

the fluid pressure device is further arranged for operating the retraction device so that the expandable means is expanded in response to the retraction of the sheath.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the retraction device comprises a cylinder-piston arrangement operated by the fluid pressure.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising a control means for controlling the fluid pressure operating the retraction device and the expandable means, either concurrently or sequentially.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein a first piston of the cylinder-piston arrangement is connected to the sheath via a wire.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus according to claim 13,~~ An apparatus for delivery and deployment of an expandable stent within a vessel, the apparatus comprising:

a catheter having a proximal end and a distal end,

an expandable means mounted at the distal end of the catheter and being expandable by means of a fluid pressure device, the expandable stent being expandable from a delivery diameter to a deployment diameter and being mounted on the catheter over the expandable means,

a sheath being slidably mounted on the stent and being arranged for proximal retraction to expose the stent by means of a retraction device wherein the retraction device comprises a cylinder-piston arrangement operated by the fluid pressure, wherein the fluid pressure device is further arranged for operating the retraction device so that the expandable means is expanded in response to the retraction of the sheath; and

wherein the cylinder-piston arrangement comprises an outlet connected to a fluid pressure line for applying the fluid pressure to the expandable means.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the cylinder-piston arrangement comprises a floating second piston for controlling the opening/closing of the outlet.

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 17, wherein during retraction of the sheath either the first piston or the second piston closes the outlet, and after at least partial retraction of the sheath of the first and second pistons are in a position at the proximal end of the cylinder and the outlet is open.

19. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the first piston comprises a hook, the second piston comprises a first central opening, the cylinder comprises a second opening and a hook holder at its proximal end, so that during retraction of the sheath the shifting first piston moves the hook through the first opening and the second opening until the hook engages the hook holder.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 16 wherein the first piston arrangement comprises a connector means and the cylinder comprises at its proximal end a receiving means for the connector means, so that after retraction of the sheath the connector means engages the receiving means and the outlet is in connection with the fluid pressure acting on the first piston.

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the cylinder-piston arrangement comprises the first piston and a two-position valve abutting via a spring at the proximal end of the cylinder, wherein in a closed position of the valve shuts by the spring force channels penetrating the wall of the cylinder, and in an open position, the valve opens the channels after it is pushed by the piston when the sheath is retracted and connects a fluid pressure line from the fluid pressure device with a fluid pressure line so that the fluid pressure is applied to the expandable means.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~The apparatus according to ~~any of~~ claim[[s]] 12, wherein the fluid is liquid.